

CHAPTER VI

QUANTICO TODAY

At a casual glance, the Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia, appears little different than other Marine Corps installations. Broad expanses of finely manicured lawns, stately buildings, Marines in training, and forested maneuver areas are in abundance.

The base has all the modern facilities and services of any self-contained small city: living quarters for both bachelor and married Marines, houses of worship, post exchanges, a commissary store, clubs, dining facilities, vast recreation programs and facilities, three elementary schools and a junior-senior high school for dependent children living on the reservation, and a modern naval hospital. The base has its own newspaper, water supply, police and fire-fighting forces, and

even a train station and an airport. The list is almost endless.

Quantico's combined military and civilian population ranges from 13,500 to 16,700 depending on the time of year and the number of Marines undergoing training or attending resident schools. A typical winter would find about 13,640 people at Quantico associated with the base's many important functions. Broken down, the total would include 3,660 Marine enlisted and 650 officers who are permanently assigned to the base, about 1,610 Marine students, the majority of whom are officers; approximately 1,940 civilian workers coming on board the base daily; and about 5,300 dependent women and children living in government quarters. Added to these are roughly 410



Lejeune Hall, Headquarters, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, built on the area that was once the rifle range. (Quantico Photo 012-0244-7-77).

permanent personnel of other U.S. Armed Forces—mostly Navy—and a few from foreign nations; and 110 students of other U.S. Armed Forces and foreign countries.

But the similarity with other Marine bases ends with a closer look at the activities at Quantico.

The command's mission is three-fold. First, the command is tasked to develop, in coordination with other Services, the doctrines, tactics, techniques, and equipment used by landing forces in amphibious operations. Second, the command must support Marine Corps requirements for long range planning by identifying study areas and initiating studies in cooperation with other agencies, and, finally, the command's mission is to educate Marines in the principles, tactics, and techniques of warfare, with emphasis on amphibious operations.

This mission only hints at the complexity of the command, which is headed by a lieutenant general, with a major general as deputy for education and a brigadier general as deputy for development.

Ask any five Marines what Quantico is and does, and you would likely receive five different answers. All would be partially correct as men, weapons, and concepts simultaneously begin their careers at Quantico.

To some, Quantico is the birthplace of concepts and equipment, a place where today's amphibious doctrines and equipment were developed, and where new doctrines, new techniques, and new equipment are being devised for the future. This would be the Development Center, headed by a brigadier general.

To others Quantico was the beginning or the continuation of professional military education. Almost all Marine officers claim Quantico as their service alma mater with its network of basic, intermediate, and advanced schools. Thousands of enlisted men and women have also received professional instruction in Quantico's schools. This would be the Education Center, under the direction of a major general.

To countless other Marines Quantico is duty with one of the major subcommands that include the Marine Corps Air Facility, Weapons Training Battalion, Headquarters Battalion, Support Battalion, and Security Battalion. These Marines have worked as administrators, aircraft mechanics, bakers, rifle coaches, communicators, legal clerks, and warehousemen, to name a few of the hundreds of occupations needed for the administration, supply, maintenance, and housekeeping chores of the command.

To see how this complex modern mission is carried out and what Quantico really is requires a closer look at each of the activities of the Marine Corps Development and Education Command.

The Development Center has a mission that affects every Marine. In simple terms the objective could be stated as keeping the Marine Corps the best equipped and best prepared landing force in the world.

Specifically, the mission of the center is "To develop, in coordination with the other Services, the doctrine, tactics, techniques, and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations." Since 1933 the center and its predecessors have defined how future amphibious forces were to be organized, equipped, and employed. The center's task is a continuing process that studies the past, adapts for the present, and provides for the future.

The Director of the Development Center is a brigadier general with his headquarters in Quantico's Hochmuth Hall. The center has divisions dealing with air and ground firepower; intelligence; mobility and logistics; operations and management; and command, control, and communications. Also under the Development Center are the Concepts, Doctrine, and Studies Activity; the Marine Corps Distributed System Activity; and the Operations, Test, and Evaluation Activity. The latter is slated to come under control of Marine Corps Headquarters, but remain a tenant activity at Quantico.

Requirements for three timeframes are continuously under study: short-range, mid-range, and long-range.

An immediate, or short-range, project might deal with an item of equipment already on hand, the perfection of its use, and publication of doctrine under which it will be used. Or, a short-range project might deal with solving problems that surfaced with the first-time use of an item of equipment in combat. Mid-range requirements deal with concepts and doctrines five to seven years away, and long-range projections go 10 to 12 years into the future.

A good example of long-range planning and coordination with another service was the development of the most versatile amphibious ship ever built, the LHA. The Navy is responsible for the development of amphibious ships and landing craft that put Marines ashore. But the LHA was built specifically for Marine Corps use, requiring close coordination between the two services during its development.

In the planning stages, years before the first



Ellis Hall, an important amphibious warfare training facility within the Education Center. (USMC Photo A308924).

LHA was launched, the Marine Corps had to provide the Navy with the details of the landing force and the equipment that would be carried by the ship. The design of the ship depended upon countless Marine Corps requirements, including troop transportation, operating and logistic support facilities, and the physical characteristics of troop equipment that would be on board and used to go ashore. This required a look into the future to determine what the Corps and its equipment would be like years hence.

Refinements continued through the mid-range planning period, the launching and fitting, until the first LHA joined the fleet. Then the Marine Corps, and the Development Center, became heavily involved in the operational testing and evaluation of the ship. Finally, after years of planning, study, and hard work, it came time to tie the whole package together with aircraft operating from the multipurpose ship's flight deck, landing craft and amphibious vehicles using the well deck, the loading and unloading of cargo, and troops enjoying the latest and best living quarters ever provided on board an amphibious ship.

That part of the Development Center's mission which calls for "coordination with other services . . ." is fulfilled in part by an extensive two-way exchange of publications and reports, but mostly by an efficient network of Marine Corps Liaison Officers permanently assigned to the developmental activities of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Through this system a continuous dialogue is maintained that keeps the Marine Corps abreast of weapons, equipment, systems,

and techniques developed by the other Services. Other service projects may have applicability to Marine Corps functions, and information concerning what the other services are doing may be essential to efficient cooperation and coordination in a combat operation. The system also permits the other services to consider Marine Corps projects that may bear on their own activities.

Looking ahead is a difficult task, especially with combat demands in the future unknown. But the Marine Corps must not be caught short, and a course must be charted that will meet tomorrow's needs. To do this the Development Center is continually seeking new initiatives and spending countless hours in research, development, testing, and evaluation. The Corps' unparalleled success in large and small wars over the decades is ample proof of how well the center and its predecessors have done their jobs.

For years the Education Center, through its component schools, has trained Marine officers of all ranks at successive stages of their careers for challenging assignments with the Corps around the world. While the center has been known for more than half a century as a producer of high quality Marine officers, in recent years the mission has expanded to train increasing numbers of enlisted Marines in specialty fields.

The Education Center is directed by a major general with headquarters in Quantico's Breckinridge Hall. Under his direction are roughly 1,600 Marines and civilians who staff and support the center's network of nine schools.

The relationship of Quantico's development and education missions is most evident in the Educa-

is the Platoon Leaders Class. Platoon Leader candidates are college students who receive six weeks of training for two consecutive summers. While at college they do not participate in any military training. About 1,200 eager young men in this category come to Quantico each summer. There is another Platoon Leaders Class that combines the two six-week courses into a single 10-week session for about 600 men each summer. The courses of instruction are similar to those of the Officer Candidates Course. Platoon Leaders are commissioned Marine second lieutenants upon graduation from college.

The Marine Corps also gets officer candidates through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. These Marine-option college students receive Marine Corps-oriented classes as well as naval science during their college careers. They report to Officer Candidates School for one six-week training session, normally during their junior-senior summer, and are commissioned upon graduation from college. About 200 future Marine officers in this category are trained each summer.

The next step for a newly commissioned officer is The Basic School—a complex that closely resembles a small college campus—located at Camp Barrett about 12 miles from the main base area. Two courses are conducted, a 21-week Basic Course for lieutenants and a shorter period of instruction for warrant officers.

The inclusion of women in the Basic Course did not change its traditional mission—to prepare lieutenants for company grade duties in the Fleet Marine Force, with special emphasis on the duties of a rifle platoon commander.

The lieutenants are formed into companies that number between 200 and 250 students. With an average of eight companies trained annually, including three that have women, about 1,800 will complete The Basic School in a normal year. The students are graduates of the Officer Candidates Course, the Platoon Leaders Class, Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, or the Service Academies.

The course of instruction at The Basic School is an extremely complex indoctrination program with success measured by overall performance in three subject areas: military skills, academics, and leadership. That might sound simple, but there are a multitude of subjects covered within these categories to provide the new lieutenants with the basic skills needed to lead Marines effectively, both in and out of combat.

Classroom and practical application subjects

include basic tactics, patrolling, vertical envelopment, tank-infantry operations, amphibious operations, aviation and air support, infantry weapons and supporting arms, land navigation, military law, communications, and combat intelligence.

Every effort is expended to make instructional situations as relevant as possible to actual conditions. Practical leadership and tactical skills are developed by assigning students to responsible command billets within the student company—both in field and garrison situations—in order for them to gain invaluable experience and confidence in the solving of problems under realistic conditions.

With the extensive field training and application combined with a comprehensive physical fitness program, many Basic School students feel they have trodden every inch of the 50,000-acre Guadalcanal area adjacent to the school.

Warrant officer students at The Basic School fall into a completely different category. These students are former noncommissioned and staff noncommissioned officers, many with more than 10 years service in the Corps. They have a field of specialization already, reducing the need for an intensive tactical education. Still, they are given a broad course of study during their 15-week stay at The Basic School. Areas of emphasis include leadership, personnel administration and management, military writing, defensive tactics, and military law. Warrant officers are trained in one session each year. The number attending depends on how many warrant officers the Marine Corps needs and selects. This figure has ranged from 120 to 270 annually in recent years.

The Infantry Officer Course at The Basic School is providing the most advanced training ever given a Marine lieutenant, with the result he is better qualified than his predecessors when reaching the Fleet Marine Force.

The eight six-week classes held each year cover the full spectrum of infantry tactics and techniques in greater detail than before, and have the advantage of an excellent instructor and student ratio with approximately 40 lieutenants in each class.

A good example of the extent of this training are the many field exercises which include: tank-mechanized operations; execution of a covert reconnaissance mission; a helicopter-borne attack; a two-day and one-night mortar platoon live fire exercise; combat in built-up areas; a live fire and maneuver rifle platoon infiltration and raid oper-



The Basic School. In the foreground is Heywood Hall and to the rear O'Bannon Hall. (Quantico Photo 012-3523-42-76).

ation; a motorized march; and assault on a fortified position.

The Education Center's intermediate level course is the Amphibious Warfare School located in Geiger Hall. About 200 students attend each year, predominately Marine captains in their sixth to eighth year of commissioned service. Each class will normally have some junior majors, women officers, and officers of other services. In addition, about five percent of each class consists of officers from foreign nations.

The nine-month course provides the continuing education that an officer needs to qualify for advancement, and the general skills for planning, directing, and supervising operations of Fleet Marine Force units at the battalion, squadron, regiment, and aircraft group level.

The school's Instruction Department has four divisions: Tactics, Weapons, Command and Management, and Professional Skills. As the name of the school indicates, emphasis is placed on the principles, fundamentals, and techniques of amphibious operations and combat operations ashore—both conventional and unconventional. General subjects covered include fire support, staff functioning, logistics, nuclear and chemical support,

Marine aviation, and counterinsurgency operations.

The most senior Marine Corps school is the Command and Staff College. About 150 lieutenant colonels and senior majors come to Quantico each year to this nine-month course which is designed to prepare them for command and staff duty within the Marine Corps appropriate to the grade of colonel. Selected officers from the other services and foreign nations also attend.

The instruction at Command and Staff College logically builds upon the foundations laid down by The Basic School and the Amphibious Warfare School and places emphasis on the expertise needed to operate within the Marine Corps, and with departmental, combined, joint, and high-level Service organizations.

The course is presented in a workshop-seminar setting where the student is required to solve problems of the type that can be expected in later service. The course stresses planning for the conduct of force-in-readiness operations by Marine air-ground task forces in cold, limited, and general war situations. The officers are also exposed to military management with emphasis on decision making within the Department of Defense; poli-



Geiger Hall, home of the Amphibious Warfare School, constructed in 1948. (USMC Photo 1-3008-70).

cies, plans, and problems of the Marine Corps; organization and functioning of the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified and Specified Commands, and the other services; and research and development activities.

The curriculum also includes more than 100 hours devoted to a series of over 50 guest lectures by noted experts in a variety of pertinent subject areas. Guests normally include the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the four service chiefs, several assistant secretaries of state and defense, ambassadors, high level officials from the other Services, noted civilian professors, and other key government officials.

One of the more interesting and useful support facilities within the Education Center is the Amphibious Operation Trainer located in Ellis Hall. There the student can sit on the sidelines and watch large terrain mockups and layouts of model ships, landing craft, and aircraft portray

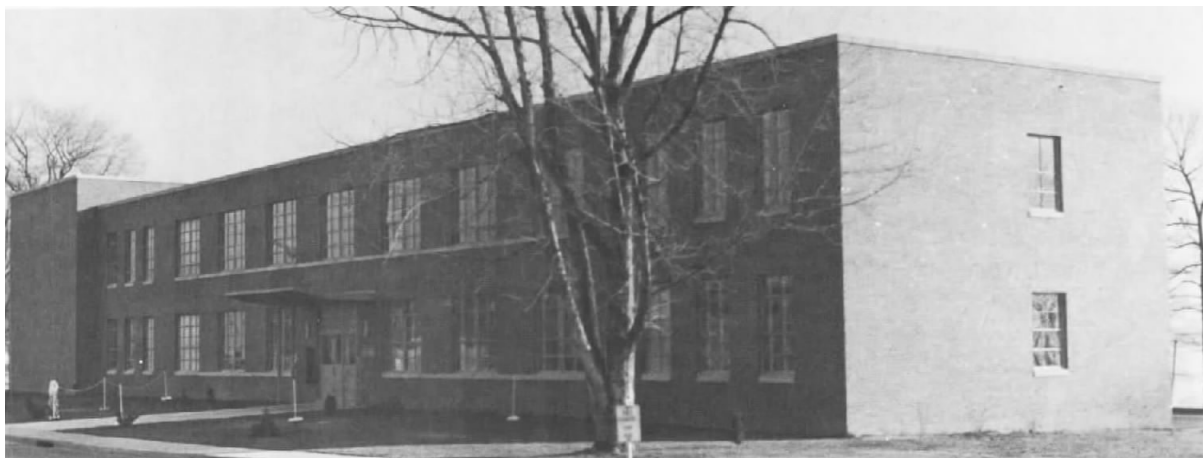
the entire complex ship-to-shore movement of an amphibious operation complete with the assault phase, logistical movement, and air and naval gunfire support.

Mention must also be made of the valuable support provided by the Amphibious Warfare Research Center. Comprised of three major facilities—the Breckinridge Library, the Classified Control Center, and the Training Support Center—the complex provides professional, technical, and research services for the students, faculty, and staff of the Education Center.

Breckinridge Library has about 80,000 items, including 55,000 books, and is staffed by four professional librarians and five technicians. Reference materials available also include periodicals, maps, technical reports, microfilm files, and a variety of other documents. These resources support research efforts in a wide range of subjects and make available specialized information on the military arts and sciences with special emphasis on amphibious operations. With the library's extensive holdings of historical and current materials, it is considered by many to be the world's most complete information resource on amphibious warfare.

The Classified Control Center holds a collection of some 200,000 reports and documents of a classified nature. The Training Support Center produces instructional aids and has a vast collection of films, slides, and other audiovisual materials to support research and instruction.

Another important activity under the Education Center is the Communication Officers School which offers two courses of instruction for active



Edson Hall, named in honor of Major General Merritt A. Edson, houses the Marine Corps Communication Officers School. (USMC Photo A324744).

duty officers and an abbreviated course for reserve officers.

The Basic Communication Officers Course provides selected Basic School graduates with a basic understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the small unit communication officer and of the organization of communication systems of the Fleet Marine Force. Fundamental techniques and skills are stressed. Up to five classes are held each year, structured to accommodate up to 50 students each.

The Advanced Communication Officers Course holds one 42-week session each year. About 50 Marine captains and majors, and selected officers from foreign nations and other services, are trained in communications and in command and staff duties that will qualify them for tactical communications duties. The curriculum consists of nine major subjects: Command and Staff, Organization and Tactics, Amphibious Operations, Electronics, Enhancement of Professional Skills, Electronic Calculations, Computer Science, Telecommunications, and Operational Communications.

A two-week Reserve Communication Course is held each summer for selected Marine Corps Reserve officers.

One of the newest, and the only truly inter-service school at Quantico, is the Computer Science School. Roughly 1,000 officers, enlisted men and women, and civilians are trained each year as programmers, operators, managers, and users of computer systems.

The school has 23 different courses and convenes over 30 classes each year. Besides Marines, personnel from the Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Civil Service, and foreign nations are students

at the school. The faculty includes Navy and Air Force instructors as well as Marines.

Also a part of the Education Center is the Marine Corps Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy. About 650 staff sergeants and staff sergeant selectees attend one of the six six-week courses held each year. The academy does not retrain the young Marines but provides a refresher course designed to increase professional knowledge, leadership, and supervisory ability, and to prepare the students for the added responsibilities they will face as their careers advance.

The training is broad, with heavy emphasis on leadership and physical fitness. Areas of study include organization, staff functioning, logistics, administration, personal financial management, oral and written communication, drill and ceremonies, and military law.

Another of Quantico's specialized institutions is the Instructional Management School that qualifies Marines from around the Corps, both officer and enlisted, in the methods, procedures, and techniques of effective instruction and instructional management.

Five four-week sessions are held each year that emphasize techniques and methods of military instruction beyond the traditional lecture presentation. Stressed is the proper utilization of instructional television, group discussion, conference, and sound-on-slide methods, along with the development of the students ability to communicate ideas clearly and concisely.

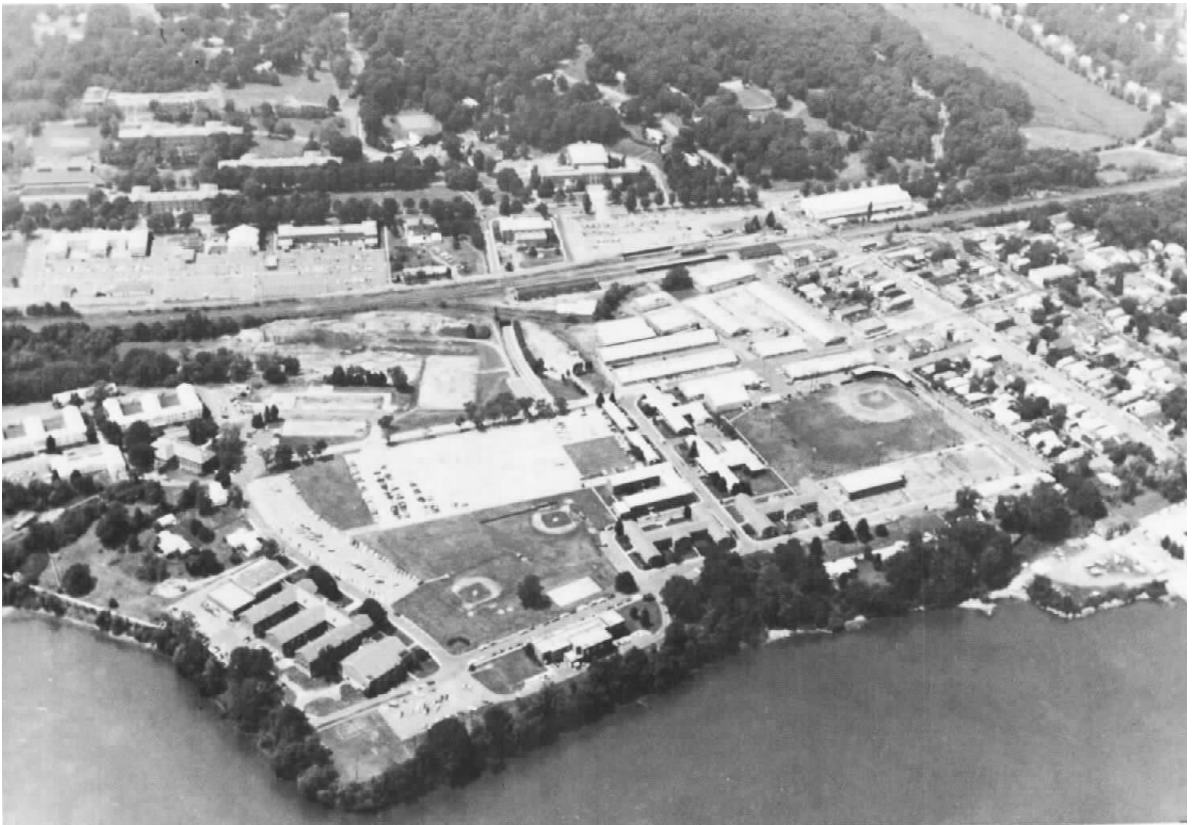
The school also offers twice yearly a two-week course for instructional managers, and one two-week course for Marine reserves. About 200 graduate from the school each year.

The last of the Education Center's schools doesn't have resident students, but is providing instruction to more Marines than any of the others. The Extension School provides professional education through correspondence study paralleling four of Quantico's resident courses: the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy, The Basic School, the Amphibious Warfare School, and the Command and Staff College.

With resident schools limited in their capacity, the enrollment of the Extension School is unlimited and normally has in the neighborhood of 8,000 students. The school is available to Marine officers and enlisted Marines, other U.S. Armed Forces personnel, selected civilians of government agencies, and certain members of foreign military services. The courses closely parallel the resident school instruction but are shortened by



Reserve units train at Quantico during the summer. (Quantico Photo 012-2088-8-77).



An aerial view of Quantico mainside with the town of Quantico on the right and Breckinridge Hall on the left. Little Hall is in the upper center. (Quantico Photo 012-2366-2-76).

limiting instruction to essential knowledge and skills that are suitable for teaching through correspondence.

Also a part of Quantico's Education Center is a small group of Marines not unlike an old traveling road show—the Amphibious Warfare Presentation Team. The team prepares a study to vividly and dramatically illustrate the amphibious doctrine, tactics, and equipment of the Marine Corps in projecting sea power ashore against a target held by hostile forces. A scenario is developed to illustrate the study through oral presentation supplemented by visual aids, rehearsals are held, and then the “show” goes on the road.

Between 80 and 90 presentations are made each year including a six-week overseas trip that alternates between Europe and the Far East. A typical year will find the team making 11 presentations overseas; 30 at senior U.S. military schools, including joint schools and those of all U.S. Services; 15 at various Marine Corps Reserve units; 9 at Marine Corps bases and Fleet Marine

Corps units; and 11 for the various schools at Quantico.

Quantico's “airport” is in reality the Marine Corps Air Facility. While the facility has no fixed-wing aircraft of its own, it still plays host to many that visit during the year to provide demonstrations in support of the education program and other command functions. The air facility is the home of Headquarters Squadron, Marine Helicopter Squadron One, Marine Air Traffic Control Unit 24, and Detachment A, Marine Air Control Squadron 23.

Marine Helicopter Squadron One, designated HMX-1, still has the important mission of providing transportation for the President and Vice President of the United States, Cabinet members, and foreign dignitaries visiting the United States. The squadron's “white-topped” helicopters are a familiar sight in the Washington area, and often precede the President on his many trips around the nation.

The squadron also works closely with the Development Center for testing, evaluating, and perfecting helicopters, related equipment and techniques, and provides helicopter training support to Quantico's schools.

The Air Traffic Control Unit is a tenant activity that is part of Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron 28, Marine Corps Air Station (Helicopter), New River, North Carolina. The unit is also involved in testing and evaluating equipment for the Development Center and supports the Air Station with personnel and equipment for air traffic control.

Another tenant unit is the Air Control Squadron Detachment, a Reserve unit that is part of the nationwide 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. About 135 Reserves come to Quantico one weekend each month for training in the installation and maintenance of electronics and communications equipment required for the detection, identification, and control of aircraft and surface-to-air missiles. A detachment of about 35 active duty Marines is permanently assigned to the squadron to train the Reservists and maintain the sophisticated equipment.

With the Marine Corps' traditional emphasis on marksmanship training and skill, Quantico's Weapons Training Battalion is an important and busy activity. Located at the Calvin A. Lloyd Rifle Range, the battalion operates and maintains several shooting ranges and provides instruction and coaching to more than 4,000 Marines who fire the rifle each year and some 3,500 who use the pistol ranges.

The battalion is also the home of the Marine Corps' shooting teams. The Marksmanship Training Unit there is tasked with training and equipping rifle, pistol, and shotgun teams that represent the Corps against civilian and other service teams in interservice, local, national, and international competition.

Besides developing, evaluating, storing, and maintaining team equipment, the Marksmanship Training Unit develops and perfects instructional methods to improve the marksmanship skills of all Marines. These techniques are passed on by the teams which travel to the sites of the Marine Corps' competition-in-arms programs as a prelude to the matches themselves. Also, the unit members work with the Development Center to test and evaluate weapons.

Many activities at Quantico provide a service, but one has more "customers" than the others. Rather small when compared to similar military

facilities in the Washington, D.C., area, the U.S. Naval Hospital, Quantico will register approximately 140,000 outpatient visits by active duty and retired service personnel and their dependents during an average year. These figures do not include treatment of Marines at the various medical dispensaries on board the base. Additionally, about 3,100 patients are admitted to the 75-bed hospital, and about 650 births are recorded each year.

Though less visible, no less important than these other activities are Quantico's three remaining commands, Headquarters Battalion, Support Battalion, and Security Battalion. Headquarters Battalion provides the administration, supply, and military training functions for all personnel assigned to the Education and Development Centers, excluding those of Officer Candidates School and The Basic School, which are themselves separate commands. The task is not a small one considering the number of students that go through Quantico in the course of a year, but it is an essential one that relieves the Education and Development Centers of a considerable burden and allows them to devote their full energies to the important tasks of development and education.

Support Battalion provides these same administrative, supply, and training functions for the numerous supporting departments at Quantico that keep the base, its residents, and its many activities operating smoothly. From journalists to cooks, legal clerks to bandmen, electronics technicians to grass cutters—all belong to Support Battalion which keeps the "city" of Quantico in business.

Security Battalion, as the name implies, is responsible for the multitude of services associated with law enforcement and protection. These include providing military police to man the gates and for roving patrols, running the correctional facility, investigative services, fire protection, animal control, and administrative functions such as vehicle registration and the issuing of passes.

Assisting the commanding general in the complex task of fulfilling the command's mission are his Deputies for Education and Development who also serve as Directors of the Education and Development Centers, and his assistant chiefs of staff. Their titles illustrate the scope and complexity of managing a unique base such as Quantico: Manpower, Services, Facilities, Operations, Comptroller, Inspector, and Supply, plus special staff assistants of Adjutant, Chaplain, Staff Judge Advocate, Management Systems, Medical, and Security.

But the formal organization and military activities of Quantico Marine Corps Base are not the



Marines 56, Eastern Illinois 14, on 4 November 1972 at Butler Stadium Quantico. The Quantico Marines football team concluded half a century of varsity participation in late 1972. (Quantico Photo 012-3745-1-72).

whole story. There are still other parts to the "big picture" that is Quantico after 60 years of association with the Marine Corps.

While "King Football" is gone, at least on the varsity level, sports are still big, with Quantico being the home of the Marine Corps' varsity teams in wrestling, fencing, track, and cross-country, and the hot bed of orienteering in the Marine Corps and the United States.

The base conducts an annual schoolboy golf tournament involving about 50 area high schools and is periodically host to Marine Corps and All-Service sports championships, AAU swim meets, and conducts an annual Frostbite Regatta, one of the biggest Lightning Class sailboat events in the world.

Individual Marines are not forgotten, with intramural programs vigorously conducted in football, basketball, softball, volleyball, handball, and several other sports, with all-star teams selected for competition in Marine Corps championships. The base boasts one of the finest golf courses in the Northern Virginia area and the base stables also provide recreation for off-duty hours.

For those who prefer other types of outdoor activity, game and fish are in abundance on the base with civilians welcome to test their luck along with Marines. Modern campgrounds and picnic areas dot the reservoirs and lakes. Hiking and riding trails meander through the forested hills stretching west from the Potomac. Sailors

and yachtsmen cruise the Potomac from Occoquan to Aquia, and down to Chesapeake Bay. Olympic size swimming pools provide the most popular form of recreation during the warm summer months.

Clubs for Marines of all ranks and their families and friends provide recreation, top quality entertainment and dining, and stately meeting rooms for Quantico's numerous private, social, and professional groups.

Scores of vocational, hobby, and recreation courses are offered to Quantico's Marines and their families several times yearly. The command's off-duty education program, conducted in cooperation with top colleges and universities, provides formal education ranging from high school through advanced degrees in a variety of fields.

Gymnasiums, bowling, movies, band concerts, and hobby shops that cater to automotive and wood-working buffs round out Quantico's off-duty programs.

Quantico's young people are not neglected; the base boasts an extensive recreation, social, and sports program for its youth. Coupled with the separate athletic, social, and academic programs of the dependents' schools on base, the spare time and interests of Marine dependent children are well accounted for.

But not all the command's concern is directed to the people and activities contained within the base perimeter. Being a good neighbor is as important to the Marine Corps Development and Education Command and to individual Marines as it was half a century ago when the base was first founded.

Command representatives take part in a Civilian-Military Community Relations Council that meets quarterly and whose membership includes the mayors of all nearby civilian communities, representatives of four county governments and three area Chambers of Commerce, mass media executives, public safety officials, public health and civil defense officials, members of the clergy, and civic association heads. The council has done much to develop a better understanding and form better lines of communication between military and civilians.

The command is also active in sharing and showing activities on board the base to civilian friends. Formal tours are conducted for thousands of visitors each year. Thousands of Boy and Girl Scouts from New England to Florida each year use the base's camping and recreational facilities. Rifle and pistol ranges and athletic facilities are



Lyman Park is an area of 450 sets of quarters for officers and enlisted personnel, named in honor of Major General Charles H. Lyman. (Quantico Photo 012-3523-69-76)

made available to civic, recreational, and professional groups. The base's dining facilities host hundreds of visitors each year, and all sporting events are open to the public at no charge. Hundreds of motorists visit the base monthly to view scenic, historic, and military points of interest.

The Marine Corps Museum, which was housed in the old post headquarters, with its extensive collections of Marine Corps historical equipment and material, closed at the end of the visitor day, Sunday, 15 August 1976, to begin the move to a new Marine Corps Historical Center, located in Building 58, the former Marine Guard Barracks, at the Washington Navy Yard. With the reorganization and relocation of the Marine Corps History and Museums Division, the aviation collection, the ordnance collection, and the motion picture film archives remained at Quantico.

Nor are off-base activities neglected. For example, the Quantico Marine Band is a familiar sight at community parades and public and school concerts. The band has traveled the length and width of Virginia, and has entertained civilian audiences as far away from Quantico as New York City and Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Quantico's Naval Hospital cooperates closely with civilian medical agencies for cross-training, sanitation problems, and in emergencies. The Air Facility has a standby helicopter ready for search, rescue, and emergency aid missions in the surrounding area, and has given lifesaving assistance on numerous occasions. The base Fire Department and those of nearby communities have an effective mutual aid plan for backup and assistance

during emergencies and for training. On a unit and on an individual basis, Quantico Marines participate in a variety of civilian programs designed to aid the socially and economically deprived citizens of the area. And then there are literally hundreds of individual Marines and their dependents who are active citizens in almost every conceivable civilian civic and community organization and activity.

Like their predecessors, today's Quantico Marines have responded to pleas for help from their civilian neighbors and, for example, have aided nearby communities fight fires, combat floods, assist passengers of a derailed train, and find lost children in Virginia's thick woodlands.

While the base has a dynamic relationship with surrounding civilian communities, there are even closer ties to the town of Quantico—the "town that cannot grow"—which is surrounded on three sides by the base and on the fourth by the Potomac River. The physical relationship between the base and town results in what might be called a mutual service and good will association. The town government consisting of a mayor and five councilmen works hand-in-hand with Marine Corps officials, and there are equally close bonds between individual citizens of both communities.

"Quantico Town," as it is called by Marines, has about 900 residents, mostly retired Marines or life-long Civil Service personnel. But there are other inhabitants of the town who have lived there almost since its founding before Marines came.



The Special Service boat docks on the Potomac River.. In the upper right is the town of Quantico. The building in the foreground is Lucas Hall, built in 1946 to house the Marine Corps Equipment Board and now home to the Operations, Test, and Evaluation Activity and the Development Center's Firepower Division. (Quantico Photo 012-3532-76-76).

The business community has about 60 firms clustered in seven compact blocks stretching up from the Potomac River. The entire town is within easy walking distance of the main base area. All of the town's businesses are designed to help meet the needs of base personnel and their families, as well as the town inhabitants. The town provides a variety of living accommodations for Marines and their families that are highly prized because of their proximity to the base.

The town has its own small police force that works closely with the base Provost Marshal. Some services are shared, like fire protection provided by the base, and the town's water supply which is purchased from the Marine Corps but which runs through municipal pipe lines.

The list of shared benefits and services is longer, but the end result is a close, mutually beneficial, mutually essential bond between the Town of Quantico and the surrounding Marine Corps base—a base that has come to be known the world over as simply, "Quantico."

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

This, then, is a brief history of the Quantico Marine Corps base, the crossroads of the Corps, the university of the Corps, and the cradle of modern Marine Corps education, doctrine, and development—itsself situated in the midst of one of America's most historic areas.

From the days of the early Spanish and English explorers, through the settlements of Scottish immigrants and the thriving Virginia tobacco trade, through the pre-Revolution opposition to British rule, to the American Revolution and the War of 1812, the history of the Quantico area is the history of the early United States.

From the pre-Civil War confrontations between the North and the South, through the Potomac blockade, the Confederate gun batteries that dominated the Quantico banks, Lowe's observation balloons, Hooker's occupation, the aftermath of McClellan's peninsular campaign, the First and Second Battles of Manassas, the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania, The Wilderness, and Grant's final move against Richmond—Quantico was in the middle of it all.

In the 20th century the history of Quantico parallels the history of the Marine Corps; the two are inseparable. It was at Quantico where Marines who fought in World War I were trained and organized into units. It was at Quantico where schools for Marine officers during the Great War set the precedent for the Marine Corps Schools to come later. It was at Quantico where almost all Marine Corps regiments for World War I were organized and trained. It was at Quantico where most of the Marines from France were returned to civilian life after the war.

Quantico was the training base and home port for thousands of Marines who fought in the "Banana Wars" of the 1920s and 1930s in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Nicaragua. Quantico's aviators pioneered the doctrine of close air support during the Caribbean wars—a doctrine that became a trademark of Marine Corps combat operations.

Quantico was the birthplace of the vocational and technical schools that became the oldest correspondence institution in the military—the Marine Corps Institute.

Quantico also nurtured the concept of professional training and education for Marine officers at logical stages in their careers: It was at Quantico where the cycle of field experience, classroom and field training, and development of doctrine was forged.

It was at Quantico where the Marine Corps entered the arena of national varsity sports, and through this and well-executed exercises at Civil War battlefields, public interest in the Corps was sustained during the bleak years after World War I.

Quantico aviators perfected the techniques of long-range and cross-country flying, establishing a standard for flight proficiency that was the envy of other aviators the world over.

From Quantico came some of the Marines who guarded the U.S. mail during the turbulent 1920s.

Quantico was the primary home of the Corps' Advanced Base Force, the predecessor of the modern Fleet Marine Force. Quantico was where the concepts of amphibious warfare and the organization of a force to accomplish that mission were conceived, nurtured, and made a reality. Quantico Marines published the first doctrine for the conduct of small wars and counterinsurgency operations. Quantico was the first home of the Fleet Marine Force and Quantico drafted the first manual for amphibious operations against hostile shores. Thus, the predictions of those who foresaw a war with Japan were translated into plans and organizations.

Quantico was where the need for a special agency to monitor and later pioneer the development of Marine Corps—peculiar equipment, tactics, and techniques was implemented. It was at Quantico where the need for special landing craft to carry Marines from ship to shore was trans-



OCS class on parade in 1977. (Quantico Photo 012-317-6-76)

lated into study and developmental programs that ensured amphibious success in World War II.

Quantico was the birthplace of the Marine Corps' first newspaper, the *Quantico Sentry*.

Quantico was where the Corps' amphibious warfare research center was born.

Quantico schools developed the doctrine for naval gunfire support of ground troops and trained the first naval gunfire specialists.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was born at Quantico.

Quantico was the first home of the Marine Corps Museum.

At Quantico thousands of officers—amphibious specialists—were screened and trained to make successful amphibious warfare a contributing factor to victory in World War II.

Quantico was the birthplace of the nuclear age amphibious concept—vertical envelopment—and was the home of the Marine Corps' first helicopter unit. It was at Quantico where the pioneering work was done and the manuals written for the use of helicopters in support of ground troops. Quantico provided the first use of helicopters for the rapid, personal transportation of the President of the United States and other key government officials.

As in earlier wars, Quantico trained Marine

officers for service in Korea, Lebanon, the Dominican Republic, and South Vietnam, and was the source of the doctrine, tactics, and equipment used so successfully by Marines during these conflicts.

From Quantico came the Marines who helped maintain order in the nation's capital during the troubled 1960s.

Quantico was the birthplace of the Corps' first ordnance school, the first air observation school, the first naval gunfire school, the first communication officers school, the first artillery officers school, the first physical fitness academy, the first staff noncommissioned officers academy, the first instructor training school, the first computer science school—and more.

Six decades have gone by since Marines first came to Quantico and began their important work. Since then because of the significant role Quantico played in the history and evolution of the modern Marine Corps, Marines of today are among the world's best equipped, best trained, and best supported fighting men. Today's Marine is highly skilled with the basic tools of his trade, but he is also well educated in military science, a master of the doctrine and theory of his profession, an operator of sophisticated electronics and

computers, a navigator of nuclear-equipped aircraft, a user of complex weapons systems, and a manager of intricate logistic networks. Quantico had a part in all of this.

As the Marine Corps advances in the post-Vietnam era, Quantico continues to explore and evaluate the changing factors of modern warfare, searching for—and providing—answers that will enable Marines of today and tomorrow to continue the Corps' tradition of success.

Quantico is a unique command, with a unique mission and a unique history replete with significant contributions to the Marine Corps and the nation. The future of the world may be uncertain, but the development of men and women, equipment and doctrine, tactics and education will continue at Quantico, charting the future of the Marine Corps—as Quantico has always done.

SEMPER FIDELIS—ALWAYS FAITHFUL
SEMPER PROGREDI—ALWAYS FORWARD